

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Examiner rejects Claims 1-14 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. The Examiner states that Claims 1-8 are rejected as being incomplete for omitting essential elements, such omission amounting to a gap between the elements. The Examiner states that the omitted elements are a secondary receiver, an element for generating a first alignment feedback signal, and a secondary transmitter for transmitting the first alignment feedback signal, a detector at the first optical wireless link for detecting the alignment of the second modulated light beam, and a generator for generating a second alignment feedback signal.

Claims 1-8 have been cancelled without prejudice of proceeding with these claims at a later date and/or in a continuation or other application. However, applicants traverse the Examiner's rejection that essential elements are missing. Claims 1-8 are method claims, and therefore do not contain elements as is appropriate for method claims. Therefore, no elements such as the elements recited by the Examiner, have been omitted on the claims, the Examiner's statement to the contrary notwithstanding.

The Examiner states that in Claims 9-14, the limitation "the detector" in line 7 is insufficient antecedent basis. The term has been changed to -- control circuit -- in order to overcome the Examiner's rejection.

The Examiner rejects Claims 1-3, 5, 7-12, and 14-25 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Willebrand. The Examiner rejects Claim 4 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Willebrand in view of Solinsky and rejects Claims 6 and 13 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Willebrand.

Claims 1-8, 11 and 15-21 have been cancelled without prejudice, as discussed above. We can not agree that the present invention is anticipated by or obvious in view of Willebrand, either singly or in combination with other references. The Examiner states that Willebrand teaches an optical wireless link wherein conveyed data is formatted as data packets and wherein the control information is formatted as control packets interspersed with the data packets and specifically refers to column 13, lines 12-16. However, in reviewing this portion of the patent, it fails to show any such reference to the term "packets" or to the interspersal of data

and control packets. Furthermore, the text at column 14, lines 14-19 shows that Willebrand teaches away from the present invention. This text recites:

"The transmission of this control, status and management information on the separate wavelength signal does not interfere with the typical information communication, because the specific wavelength signal is reserved for the status, control and management information communication." (emphasis added).

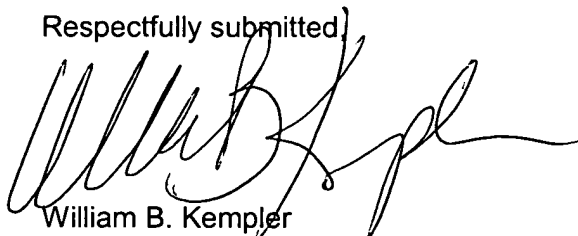
Accordingly, Willebrand teaches the transmission of the control information over a separate wavelength signal which requires a special laser that can putout multiple wavelength signals, in order to provide these two specific channels. Furthermore, the fact that the control information is sent over one wavelength and the data is sent over another, means that Willebrand teaches away from the combination of the two on a signal channel, that is, a single wavelength. This also disproves the Examiner's argument that the utilization of Ethernet frames or the utilization of packets which are SubNetwork Access Protocol packets would be obvious in view of Willebrand, because Willebrand teaches utilization of separate channels, which does not require packetization of the information and control signals.

Claims 9 and 22 have been amended in this respect and Claim 10 has been made to conform. Claims 12 and 13 have been amended in order change the claim dependency in view of the cancellation of Claim 11.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification and claims by the current preliminary amendment. The attached page is captioned **"Marked-up version to show changes."**

Accordingly, applicants feel that the application, as amended, is in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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MARKED-UP VERSION TO SHOW CHANGES:

9. (Amended) An optical wireless link comprising:

a photodetector configured to receive a single modulated light beam;

the modulated light beam conveying data packets and control packets time multiplexed into a single packet stream;

a control circuit coupled to the photodetector, the control circuit

receiving the data packets and control packets conveyed by the single modulated light beam, and

extracting therefrom embedded control ~~information~~packets;

a processor coupled to the ~~detector~~control circuit and receiving therefrom the control ~~information~~packets and generating in response thereto beam alignment signals;

a beam transmitter coupled to the processor and receiving therefrom the beam alignment signals; the beam transmitter adjusting alignment of a light beam in response to the beam alignment signals.

~~the beam transmitter adjusting alignment of a light beam in response to the beam alignment signals.~~

10. (Amended) The optical wireless link of claim 9 further comprising:

a servo detector adjacent the photodetector and configured to detect light intensity information; and

a control information generator coupled to the servo detector and configured to generate control information from the light intensity information received from the servo detector; and wherein

the control circuit embeds the control ~~information~~ packets into the stream of data packets to be conveyed by the beam transmitter.

12. (Amended) The optical wireless link of claim 419 wherein said control logic comprises a switch configured to detect control information on the basis of a destination address contained within the control packet.

13. (Amended) The optical wireless link of claim 419 wherein the data packets are Ethernet frames and wherein the control packets are SubNetwork Access Protocol packets.

22. (Amended) A system for communicating a data stream between a first and second data devices comprising:

a first data source / sink generating a stream of data packets;

a first optical wireless device coupled to receive the stream of data packets from the first data source / sink and including:

a switch configured to receive the stream of data packets and to insert therein alignment control packets;

a light beam transmitter coupled to the switch and configured to transmit the stream of both data packets and control packets on a single modulated light beam;

a second optical wireless device comprising:

a photodetector configured to receive the single modulated light beam;

a second switch configured to receive the stream of data packets and control packets from the photodetector and to extract therefrom the control packets;

a second light beam transmitter; and

a light beam transmitter alignment unit coupled to the second light beam transmitter and configured to align the second light beam transmitter in response to the control packets; and

a second data source / sink coupled to the second optical wireless device and receiving therefrom the stream of data packets.